

## **REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing, reexamination and consideration of the subject application, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.116, are respectfully requested in light of the remarks which follow.

### **I. Claim Amendments**

By the foregoing amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 3, and claim 3 has been canceled.

The amendments to the claims, including cancellation of claims, have been made without prejudice or disclaimer to any subject matter recited or canceled herein. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation and/or divisional applications directed to any canceled subject matter. No new matter has been added, and entry of the foregoing amendments of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

### **II. Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

**A.** Claims 1, 5, 18 and 24-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Galmiche et al. (*Journal of General Virology*, 1997, Vol. 78, p. 3019-3027, in IDS of October 7, 2003) in view of Chung et al. (*Journal of Virology*, 1998, Vol. 72, p. 1577-1585)

**B.** Claims 6, 7 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being purportedly being unpatentable over Galmiche et al. (*Journal of General Virology*, 1997, Vol. 78, p. 3019-3027, in IDS of October 7, 2003) in view of Chung et al. (*Journal of Virology*, 1998, Vol. 72, p. 1577-1585) as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Schumacher et al. (*The Journal of Histochemistry and Cytochemistry*, 1998, Vol. 46, p. 127-134).

In order to expedite prosecution in the present application, and not to acquiesce to the Examiner's rejection, the claims have been amended as described above. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite the subject matter of claim 3. Claim 3 has not been included in the obviousness rejections. Finally, the other rejected claims (claims 5-7, 18 and 24-27) all depend ultimately from claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

### **CONCLUSION**

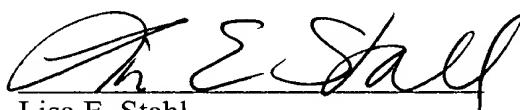
In view of the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order. Such action is earnestly solicited. In the event that there are any questions relating to this Amendment and Reply, or the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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